

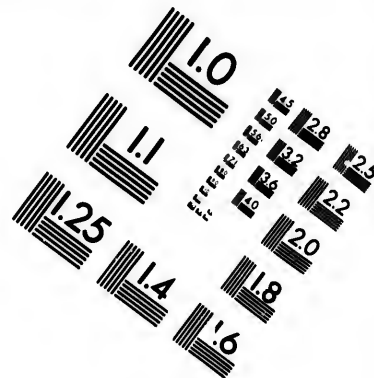
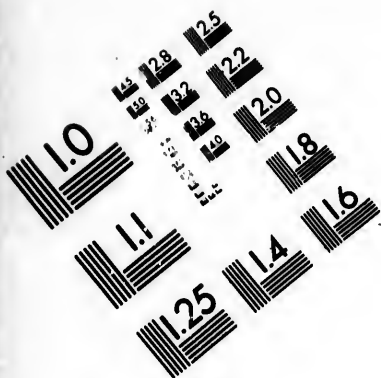
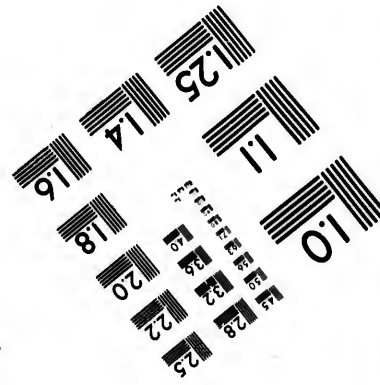
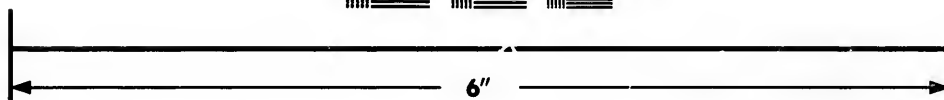
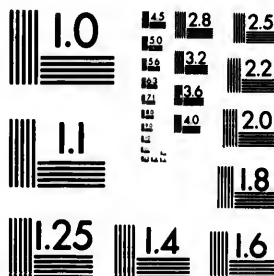


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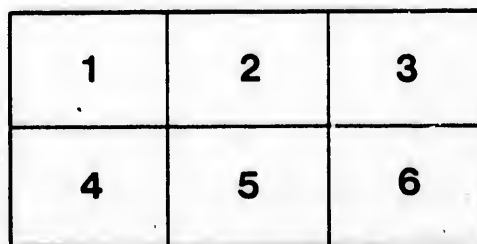
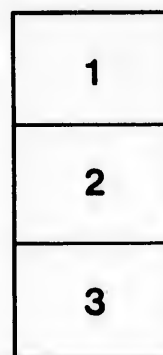
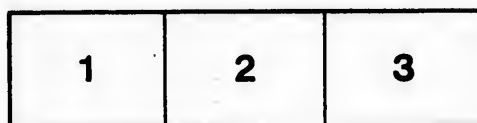
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THE death knell of a noble cause has, I fear, been struck in this city by the crooked policy and blind obstinacy of a little clique in the Committee of the W. P. I. Society. It was that policy which sent to the *Gazette* office the *very incorrect* account (to put it mildly) of the meeting of March 13th, which appeared *verbatim* in the *Gazette* of the 15th. It opened thus: "The usual monthly meeting of the Society was held on Monday, when the various Committees in connection with the movement were well represented (1) (*The General Committee was represented by one lady; the remaining nine were office-bearers and members of the Executive Committee.*) "The constitution which had been read at "a former meeting, was presented for signature by the twenty-five "ladies who represent the shareholders, in order to incorporate the "Society." (*No signing whatever took place at that meeting, and the ladies present were only ten in number, viz.: Mrs. T. S—h, Mrs. B—k, Mrs. G—n L—g, Mrs. H—n, Mrs. H—e, Mrs. F—y, Mrs. E—t, Miss M—t, Miss B—y, Miss H—t.*) "Mrs. E—t and Mrs. W. W. M—n, were empowered to represent the Society" (at Rideau Hall). (1) (*It was not even proposed that Mrs. W. W. M—n should represent the Society, and as the reader proceeds further the reason will be obvious.*) The same questionable policy may be traced in the fourth line of the very *imposing* advertisement which appeared in the *Star* and other papers on the 29th ult., stating that the Society "is now prepared to *begin* its philanthropic work," (1) when, in point of fact, its first meeting was held on the 8th Sept., and nineteen immigrants were brought out and placed as domestics several weeks before this advertisement! Of the "philanthropic" motives which animate this clique my readers will be able to judge from the following pages. Of the long list of ladies published (on the 29th ult.) as belonging to the Executive and General Committees, I think I am safe in saying, that the large majority of the latter are *subscribers only*, and that they were as much surprised as the public in general by that announcement. Most assuredly, *not one-fourth* of the thirty-seven named are in the habit of attending the meetings, and of these (the twenty-seven reported on the General Committee) *twenty-five, I believe, have never been inside the Committee Room!* Had even half that number attended the meetings regularly, these pages had never been written, for the wrong-doing they record could have no existence. As it was, the gallant minority were powerless for resistance.

ORIGIN OF MY CONNECTION WITH THE SOCIETY.

My heavy losses through the fall of stocks and other causes made me desirous of obtaining some Secretaryship (as involving less fatigue than teaching). I called on Mme. de Koerber last fall, being then under the impression that she was still the Government Immigration Agent, and having heard that she was in want of a

(1) Since the return from Ottawa an ominous silence has reigned with regard to this visit to Rideau Hall—"Oh, no, we never mention it."

Secretary to assist her in the department. She informed me, however, that her connection with the Government had ceased, but that she was organizing a committee in this city, and that a salaried Secretary would sooner or later be required, if the movement were successful. She seemed very desirous that I should have the appointment, and after several interviews, I was induced (on her invitation and representation that the ladies of the Committee *acquiesced in her wish*, that when the funds of the Society warranted the engagement of a paid Secretary, I should have the post) to join the Committee on Nov. 12th, as the minutes of that date will show. I was officially appointed on the 5th December as Recording Secretary by the unanimous vote of the sixteen ladies present. I discharged the duties of the office to the best of my ability, and in perfect harmony with the Corresponding Secretary, the President and every member of the Committee, and I may add that I never had an unpleasant word with one of them, until Miss B——y's most unprovoked attack upon me on Wednesday, the 25th January. With the exception of a slight acquaintance with Miss M——t, they were all strangers to me, and many are so still.

Mrs. M——n and myself were on terms of the most cordial friendship, and in perfect unison on all matters connected with the Society and its various members. She had often threatened resignation, not only on account of her domestic engagements, but in consequence of Miss B——y's most unwarrantable interference with her office, and she sent that lady a letter of indignant remonstrance, of which she read me a copy. An hour or two after Miss B——y's rudeness to me, I informed Mrs. M——n of it, and received from her all the sympathy which a friend might expect. While I sat conversing with her, she received two notes from Miss B——, and at her request (Mrs. M——n being indisposed that morning) I brought her writing materials from the next room, and waited while she answered Miss B.'s urgent request for an interview.

On the next day, Thursday, the 26th, a Special Meeting of the Committee was held for consultation with Mr. F. Lyman on the drafting of the Constitution. The ladies assembled punctually at three o'clock, and after waiting some time for Mr. Lyman, Miss M——t proposed that other business might be transacted, but Miss B——y objected, saying that it was an "informal" meeting, called for an especial purpose. *Within five minutes after making this statement*, Miss B——y took the chair, and *renewed her attack on me* in the following words, "I wish to propose that there shall be but one Secretary—I have seen Mrs. M——n on the subject this morning, and she has consented to be that Secretary." (!!) I will not pause now to call attention to this arrogant assumption of powers belonging to the Committee alone, but I leave my readers to imagine my feelings when such an announcement was made *without a word of denial on Mrs. M——n's part!* But I never condemn a friend unheard, however strong the evidence, and *after the*

meeting Mrs. M——n assured me that her consent to Miss B——y's proposal was *conditional on my resignation*. I had another interview with Mrs. M——n in her own house the next day (Friday) and left with the fullest faith in her friendship and unison with my views. In fact, her assurances (quite unsolicited) were so emphatic as she accompanied me to the door, that I said, smiling, "Well, there will certainly be *no uncertain sound on Monday!*" "No, indeed," she added, very impressively. How she kept her word, the annexed correspondence will shew.

That meeting took place on the following Monday, January 30th. We were both present, and much to my surprise Mrs. M——n publicly apologized to me for not having mentioned *at the previous meeting* the proviso, viz., *my resignation*—which she had attached to her assent to Miss B——y's proposal. Of course, I thanked her for the apology, and, unexpected as it was, no doubt of her good faith crossed my mind. Some other business was then transacted, and then, when it was growing late, Miss B——y (who had just assured me that she meant *nothing personal!*) again brought forward her motion, "That there should be but one Secretary." Not a single reason for it was given, no opportunity offered for objection, and it was hurried to a vote. The ladies present were Mrs. T. S——h, Mrs. B——k, Mrs. H——e, Mrs. H——n, Mrs. G. W. S——s, Mrs. C——p, Mrs. E——t, Mrs. R. L——y, Mrs. W. W. M——n, Miss B——y, Miss H——t. (I ought to have mentioned before, that when Miss B——y brought forward the subject on the previous Thursday, her motion was strongly opposed by Mrs. T. S——h, Mrs. B——k, Miss M——t, and myself.) On the present occasion Miss B——y proposed that all in favour of it should raise the right hand; six of the eleven present did so, and it was immediately declared "Carried." Some of the ladies then remarked that "of course Mrs. M——n was the Secretary," and *she said not a word against it!!*

In trying to "plead her cause" with me, as she expressed it after the meeting, she urged in extenuation of her treachery that "*four ladies had been to her that morning, and Miss B——y more than once,*" to get her consent to the scheme! And so she sacrificed truth, honour, and friendship (and domestic comfort, according to her own repeated assertions) to the paltry ambition of continuing to write herself, at home and abroad—"Honorary Secretary"—for I can see no other motive.

On the following morning, Tuesday, January 31st, "I addressed the following note to Mrs M——n:—

"My dear Mrs. M——n,

"Will you kindly oblige me with an answer to
"the following questions:—

"1st—Did you not tell me in your own house last Friday morning, that you had informed Miss B——y, on her application to you the preceding morning, that you would accept the sole
"Secretaryship *only in the event of my resignation?* 2ndly—Did you

"not at the same time acknowledge to me that you were wrong in
 "allowing her statement, at the meeting on Thursday, of your
 "acquiescence in her proposal, *without mention of your important*
 "*proviso*, to pass without comment? 3rdly—Did you not further
 "add, on my taking leave of you, that I would be fully satisfied
 "with your action on the subject at the next meeting, and that in no
 "case would you now accept the Secretaryship?

"I will not trespass on your time this morning further than to
 "ask for a simple negative or affirmative in reply, and my mes-
 "senger will await your convenience.

Yours truly,

C. E. H——t."

At about half past two o'clock p.m. I received the following
 reply:—

"MY DEAR MISS H——T,

"I am sorry to see by the tenor of your note that you are
 "still unsatisfied with the action I have taken in this matter.
 "Nevertheless your manner during the meeting yesterday conveyed
 "to me the impression that I had fulfilled my intention of making
 "a full apology, your marked expression of thanks having led me
 "to think you were satisfied. If not, *why did you thank me?*
 "I am deeply grieved at this turn of things and might well say
 "*Et tu Brute!* (*If this exclamation came from the party addressed it*
 "*would not be inappropriate!*) Your last conversation with me was
 "pleasant and friendly and you then expressed the hope that
 "such relations might always continue. Have you so soon changed
 "your mind? And another thing, would it make you happier
 "*(was it a question of happiness?)* were I to resign and give the
 "work to another (*Is any clearer proof of the plot necessary than this*
 "*absurd assumption?*) who knows nothing of it, or would the
 "work prosper better, think you? The questions I will answer in
 "person, as I am already half an hour late for an appointment
 "with Mrs. H——n to do some work for her.

"With kind regards, very sincerely, G. H. M——n.

"If I get out early enough I shall call on you on my way
 "home before six."

The various absurdities of this *long hurried note* (to avoid
 writing *three* words) are too patent to need remark from me.

At a quarter past six o'clock the same evening (Tuesday) I
 despatched the following note to Mrs. M——n:—

"MY DEAR Mrs. M——N,

"I regret that I shall be unable to see you to day, as I feel
 "quite unequal to entering on any discussion of the points you
 "mention. I am much disappointed that your note contains no
 "reply whatever to the three simple questions asked in mine this
 "morning, for I desired that the bearer should wait for an answer.
 "Whatever it may be, it can make no difference in my decision,
 "made on leaving the meeting yesterday, that I would at once
 "withdraw from the Society; and my official letter will meet you

"at the Rooms to-morrow morning. But I had mentioned to several persons the assurance you had given me the previous day, and for my own satisfaction and justification, I desire your confirmation or denial of the same in writing. If you confirm my statements, I shall be happy to discuss the matter further with you as soon as I feel well enough. If you deny them, no comment would be needed. Again begging the favour of a reply this evening, if convenient,

I remain yours truly,

C. E. H—t."

While at tea at half past six o'clock, a few minutes after sending this note, Mrs. M——n called, accompanied by Miss. M——t, both being on their way home from Mrs. H——n's. I received them in the hall (the parlor being occupied) and informed Mrs. M——n that I had just sent another note to her and that she would probably find my messenger awaiting her return home. She remarked that she was going out that evening and "would it do if she sent an answer in the morning?" I said "Certainly," and both left. The next day passed without a word. Returning home about six p.m. on the following day (Thursday) I found that Mrs. M——n had called at half past five, and left her card. Friday passed and still no answer. About noon on Saturday, Mrs. M——n called, and I saw her. She seemed most anxious to clear herself, spoke of the interest she had felt in me, even before we met, from Mme. de K——r's mention of my heavy financial losses, and how cordially and fully (from "philanthropic" motives also, as regarded me) *she had co-operated in that lady's wish that she should retain her post until both secretaryships should pass to me, &c., &c.* (1)

That "even then she had told them she would resign, but they would not let her!" (I did not ask her who was meant by "them" and "they" and I may mention here that at the Special Meeting which took place on Saturday, February 11th, just a week after Mrs. M——n made the above statements to me when all office-bearers resigned with a view to an election in accordance with the Constitution, *Mrs. M——n did so with the greatest reluctance,*—(so I was told by others present.)

But the stubborn facts could not all be evaded. Finally, I endeavoured to get an answer to the third question viz:—Did you not say that "*in no case would you now accept the secretaryship?*" "She thought not"—"still" (when I told her that were I on my death bed I could repeat the assertion) "she had had so many things to think of, she might have done so," "she would give me the benefit of the doubt," "but if she had said so, she had attached a *condition* to it." (How a *condition* could be attached to such a declaration is somewhat puzzling!) I asked "what was the condition?" "A *mental one*" she replied (!!!)

(1) (This statement Mrs. M—— had also made before we ever met in Mrs. B——n's drawing room, in the presence of that lady and several others. Most people, I imagine, will think her manner of carrying out these views rather peculiar!)

On February 10th I received the following note from Miss B——y:—

"MY DEAR MISS H——T,—

"Miss M——t tells me that you consider my action a personal one in laying a proposal of having but one secretary before the Committee of the Immigration Society, and also my refusing to call a special meeting. I beg most emphatically to deny that I had any such idea. I took the course in the last point, which seemed the proper one, and in the first the question had been brought up (2) and had to be decided before the Constitution was passed. In nothing I have said or done have you personally influenced my decision in any way. Hoping you will accept this repeated assurance from me that nothing personal was ever intended.

I remain, yours truly,

E. E. B——y."

To this I at once returned the following reply:—

"MY DEAR MISS B——y,—

"In reply to your note just received, I would simply state that in your proposition, '*that there should be but one Secretary*' (however, I might deem it an error of judgment at this stage of the Society), I could have no cause of complaint whatever, *had the passing of the resolution of the 30th ult. left the sole secretaryship* (as I had every right to expect, in view of the express understanding under which I joined the Committee), *with me*. Instead of that (and I need not remind you of the means used beforehand to secure Mrs. M——n's co-operation in the issue), a lady so overwhelmed with her domestic cares and duties, that she has repeatedly contemplated resignation of the post of Corresponding Secretary, though she had much assistance in her department from Mme. de K——r, and since from me, is declared sole Secretary! *Therein lie the discourtesy, the injustice, and the injury done me*, and I cannot but believe that neither you nor any of the ladies who supported your views had duly weighed and considered all the circumstances involved. You must pardon me, therefore, if I cannot reconcile your assurance that *nothing personal was intended* with the facts I have just mentioned, taken also in connection with your statement in my presence and Mrs. H——'s, on Wednesday, the 25th ult., that in case of Mrs. M——'s refusal to accept the sole secretaryship, you '*knew of another lady who would work under you, etc., etc.*' thus utterly ignoring my existence as Recording Secretary! But all this feeling on your part has arisen, I think, from a total misconstruction of my words and actions, and had frankness been used the little cloud would never have reached its present dimensions. With regard to the other point you mention—your refusal to call a meeting—there is a decided mistake in the feelings attributed to me. But that is a subject of very

(2) *By Miss B. only.*

" trifling importance. I think no unprejudiced mind can fail to
 " perceive that it is imperatively necessary that I should do all in
 " my power to be righted in this matter. God knows what a re-
 " lief it would be to me to have this trouble relegated to the
 " *things of the past* by the action of the Committee to-morrow !
 " A personal interview is always so much more satisfactory where
 " there are many points to clear up. If you will, therefore, favor
 " me with a call at any time after five o'clock to-day, I will in-
 " dulge the hope that this matter may even yet be satisfactorily
 " settled between us. If not, I can at least give you the assur-
 " ance that you will meet with the welcome and courtesy due
 " from one lady to another.

Yours truly,

C. E. H——t."

No answer was ever returned.

My intention of proposing an investigation of this subject at the next Monthly Meeting (March 13th) was well-known, and I was warned that I would not even be allowed to make the proposition. But threats seldom move me much. And in fact, this conspiracy to deprive me of the liberty of speech was,—through the most unladylike behaviour of those members resolved on stifling enquiry at any cost,—successful for nearly *two hours*, when the upright and independent action of Mrs. G——n L——g (who saw through the whole plot) foiled the conspirators with these simple words, " I think Miss H——t should be heard without interrup-
 " tion." I thanked her emphatically for this expression of her opinion; from that moment there was a return to the customs of civilized life, and I was permitted to read the following address to the end without further hinderance :—

ADDRESS READ AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL
 COMMITTEES, MARCH 13TH.

Ladies, I desire to lay a proposition before you and it will simplify matters very much if, before doing so, I ask the President and Secretary, pro. tem., whether they have any complaint to make or charge to bring against me. I have as yet heard of none other than "*excitability*." I wish I had none heavier to bring against these ladies. But, unhappily, mine are of the gravest character. To give a clear understanding of the case, I am obliged to trouble you with some preliminary information, and I must ask your indulgence, and close attention. It is the first time that I thus tax your patience—it will also be the last. The first meeting of this Society was held Sept. 8th, 1881, and in the minutes of that date it will be found recorded that "Mrs. W. W. M. kindly consented to act as *Corresponding Secretary* until such time as the Society can afford a salaried one." The Committee at that time was a very small one, and but three or four meetings, I believe, had taken place when I joined it, Nov., 12th, at the written request of Mme. de K. on the understanding, through her,

with that Committee, that I was eventually, when the finances of the Society permitted, to become the sole and salaried Secretary. The ladies of the present Committee who were members at that date, Nov. 12th, are Mrs. B—k, Mrs. E—t, Mrs. W. W. M—n, and Miss B—y, and I consider that these ladies being fully aware of that understanding, were morally bound to use their influence in carrying it out. No such idea, however, as that I had any *legal* claim on the Society has ever crossed my mind, nor can I imagine with whom such a preposterous idea originated. But it is only one of the many slanderous statements which have lately been circulated regarding my views, motives and intentions. I think those who know me will hardly need my assurance that my services would have been quite as cheerfully and freely rendered, even had there never been any mention of a possible salary in the dim future, however desirable, in view of my heavy financial losses, such an accompaniment might be. But a little clique (*a very small one, I am glad to believe*) has been industriously engaged of late in erecting a variety of small edifices. They are admirably contrived for the purpose intended, except from this *one flaw—they have no foundation*. These ladies are also kind enough to say that *self-interest alone* connects me with the Society. If they mean by this that I would grudge any personal exertion in aid of a poor immigrant, I can only say that I think there are a few houses among the poor of this city where a different impression prevails, and possibly, also, at the General Hospital where I have been an almost weekly visitor for six months past. And for further information I might refer them to the Records of the Cathedral Dorcas and District Visiting Societies. Another little romance is that I wish to *force* the Committee to appoint me Secretary! Nothing is further from my thoughts. Whatever be the verdict of the Committee of Investigation which I am about to demand, I am here to-day for *the last time*. Whatever desires I may once have had with regard to the Secretaryship, they were most effectually quenched by that crowning act of discourtesy, injustice and treachery consummated on the 30th Jan. Since then I have never had the slightest wish for the post *per se*. As an evidence, however, of the good will of the Society in general, and of disapprobation of the outrageous treatment I have received from certain members, my election to the office on the 20th Feb. would have been very gratifying to me, and the fact that I would have had a majority of six votes, but for accidental circumstances, and the changing of a vote from misrepresentation, is extremely pleasing to me.(3) But had I been elected, my *wishes* would have prompted

(3) At the elections February 20th, the recorded votes for the secretaryship "were: Mrs. M—n, eight; Miss H—t, six." Five were lost to me by absence, and one was *diverted by misrepresentation* (as I afterwards discovered), at the meeting, before the balloting took place. Mrs. B—k, with a dozen other members, including Mrs. G—n L—g (though at that date I had never had the pleasure of exchanging a word with her), did me the honor to wish my appointment, and Mrs. B—k had made enquiry of Miss B—y (then President), whether those unable to be present could send their written votes. In reply Miss B—y expressed her belief that such votes would be accepted. Trusting to this

an immediate resignation of the post; and had I continued in office, it would have been solely for the convenience of the Committee, and not my own, for I have suffered too much to fill it now from any warmer feeling than a mere sense of duty. On the day I joined the Committee (Nov. 12th), I was asked (as the records will show), to draft a letter to Mr. G. W. S., in the absence of the Cor. Secretary, and on the 5th December, by the unanimous vote of the sixteen ladies present, I was elected Recording Secretary. Up to that date the duties of that office had been wholly discharged by Mme. de K., who also presided at the meetings, and from that period I occupied the post until the 30th January, when, at a meeting of eleven members, Miss B——y (the President), moved "that there should be but one Secretary," and without a single reason being given in support of the motion, or any opportunity afforded for opposing it, it was hurried to a vote and carried by a majority of one. On the manifest impropriety of making such an important change at such a meeting, without giving due notice to all members of both committees, I need not dwell. The whole proceeding, I am ready to prove, was the result of a plot to deprive me of office. It required, however, the treachery of a friend to insure its success, and that *was not withheld*. When the resolution was declared "Carried," some members remarked that, "of course, Mrs. M——n was the Secretary," and that lady who, hardly fifteen minutes previously, had tendered me an apology *for not having stated at the meeting on the 26th that she had told Miss B——y that she would only accept the secretaryship in the event of my resignation*, now said *not a word against it!!* These are hard statements to make, but every lady present must testify, however reluctantly, to their truth. I wish here, however, very distinctly to state my belief that several of the ladies who supported Miss B——s motion, did so in perfect ignorance of her real motives, and of the fact that it could affect me injuriously. But, ladies, I ask you to consider the situation for a moment. It is well known to many outside the Society that I expected to become the sole Secretary, in virtue of the understanding to which I have alluded; and before I ever met Mrs. M——n, she had made a statement to that effect in the drawing room of a lady of the highest standing in this city (and in the presence of several other ladies), expressing also at the same time her desire to co-operate in the arrangement made by Mme. de K., by continuing in her post as Cor. Secretary until both secretaryships could be transferred to me. And this statement Mrs. M. has often repeated to me and to others. I join the Committee November 12th, am elected Recording

authority, Mrs. B——k, who was suffering from a severe fall, did not urge upon her friends the necessity of voting *in person*, as she would otherwise have done. Nevertheless, when the votes were recorded, those sent by absent members were rejected.

Voting by proxy is, of course, of common occurrence in most, if not all, corporate assemblies (in the *Witness of t.* 12th inst., page 8, Sir Hugh Allan and the President of the M. B. are evidently in favor of it), nevertheless it was voted down, Feb. 20th, and four proxies in my favor thus lost.

Secretary December 5th. Not the slightest trouble has ever occurred in my department with any member whatever, and the most cordial and friendly relations especially exist between the Corresponding Secretary and myself, when suddenly, at the approach of the busiest season, it is determined that *only one Secretary is necessary*, and a lady (oppressed with household cares, and constantly threatening resignation on that account, and Miss B.'s frequent interference with her duties—to whom she had written a letter of most indignant remonstrance on the subject), *remains Sole Secretary*, and the appointment of the *Recording Secretary* (a lady wholly free from domestic duties, and in whose department no trouble whatever had ever occurred), is thereby annulled! Can anyone say that such a change might not reflect unfavorably on the Recording Secretary? Would there not likely be a suspicion of some grave, though hidden, cause? I believe it to be the duty of a Recording Secretary to keep a clear, concise and faithful account, (without any comment whatever,) of the business transacted at the meetings, including the resolutions passed, *wholly undeterred by the fear of giving offence to any member, however high in office, who may have been opposed to such resolutions.* That I have endeavoured to do this, the fifteen or eighteen pages in my handwriting in those Records will testify. *And I am proud to say that no President ever approached me to suggest a change in any document without the knowledge or sanction of the Committee, though such a proposal was made with success in another quarter.* (4) But I am unwilling to weary you with a detail of all the insulting treatment I have received on account of my faithful discharge of my duty as the Recording Secretary of the Committee, and *not as Miss B.'s private Secretary.* Some of the members were inclined to dispose of the question somewhat in this fashion—"Yes—there is no doubt you were very rudely treated, but if you had submitted quietly, the Committee might have appointed you again some day!!" Now, I hope I am never *aggressive*, and I can honestly say that I would far rather heal a breach at any time than make one, but I am afraid I am totally deficient in those qualifications which would render me a convenient subject for this dropping and picking up process on the part of any individual or association, and, strange as it may seem, I positively object to being ridden over roughshod! Premising that up to the 25th Jan., I had never had an unpleasant word with any member of the Committee, I will now state that on that day and in this house, in the presence of Mrs. H——n and myself, Miss B——y announced her intention of proposing that there should be but one Secretary (and I may mention, *en passant*, that it was only the week previously that, at Miss B.'s request, I had written a fourth letter for the Corresponding Secretary) and that if Mrs. M——n could not take the post, she "knew of a lady who would"!! thus utterly ignoring my presence and existence as Recording Secretary!

(4) *My authority for this statement is the lady who made the alteration.*

The next day, January 26th, she made her second attack at a meeting called for consultation with Mr. F. Lyman on the drafting of the Constitution. That gentleman's arrival being delayed for some time, Miss M——t proposed that other business might be commenced, but Miss B——y objected on the ground that it was an "informal" meeting, called for an especial purpose. Within five minutes, however, after making this objection, Miss B——y took the chair, and re-opened her battery on me in the following words—"I wish to propose that there shall be but one Secretary. *I have seen Mrs. M——n on the subject this morning, (5) and she has consented to be that Secretary!!*" This arrogant assumption of powers belonging to the Committee alone—to say nothing of the gross rudeness to me—needs no comment. And, now, ladies, apologizing for this long preamble, I place my proposition before you—viz.: that a Special Committee be appointed to investigate the charges I have brought against these ladies (Miss B. and Mrs. M——n) and determine whether their conduct was or was not justifiable. And if not, that the said Committee be empowered to take what further action their sense of justice may indicate. The grave nature of these charges will doubtless make the two office-bearers in question as desirous as I am for a searching investigation, and I call upon every lady present who is a lover of truth and justice, and who has the interest of the Society at heart, to lend her aid in the simple settlement of the difficulty in the manner I propose. I know not how I could make a fairer offer. To the charge of "excitability" I plead guilty. Wrong, injustice, cruelty or oppression of any kind make the blood tingle in my veins; and unprovoked insult, whether offered to myself or to another, is apt to excite me, I confess. Still, I think that underhand plotting, wilful misrepresentation, falsehood and treachery may possibly be deemed graver faults. Ladies' Committees have proverbially a very ephemeral existence—chiefly, I fear, from the fact that we are generally swayed more by feeling than judgment. And yet, where the laws of Christian kindness and courtesy are strictly preserved, I see no reason why much efficient work may not be accomplished by a Committee of intelligent ladies. I know that in the Cathedral Dorcas Society (to which I have the honor of being Secretary), and in the District Visiting Society, I have never heard of the slightest interruption to the harmonious working of the members. In *this* Society, on the contrary, the violations of the laws of common politeness have been so frequent that I am the fourth member who has met with rudeness from the same quarter. But there has been a vast improvement of late; experience has taught wisdom, and I doubt if there will be any repetition of the scenes of the past. Many present will remember a memorable one, early in December, in this room, where the antagonists were the two ladies now leagued against me, and there are those here also who could tell you that it was owing to my

(5) *It will be remembered that I assisted in the arrangements for this interview!*

mediation in the following week that a reconciliation was effected. "Il faut laver son linge sale en famille" is a very excellent, if not a very elegant proverb, and to show you how anxious I have been to follow the precept, I will, with your permission, read you my reply to Miss B.'s note of February 10th. (See letter to Miss B., February 10th.) And now, ladies, I have done. No one can deny my right to call for an investigation. The appointment of a special committee will prevent any interruption to other business (though, even had I no personal interest in this matter, I would say that nothing of more importance could be placed before you at this time), and I am sure that any and every Christian lady present would be willing to devote an hour—I doubt if more would be required—to elicit "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,"—calmly and dispassionately, weighing the evidence on both sides, and rendering a verdict in accordance with the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." In closing, I desire to return my hearty thanks to those ladies who, as I have been informed, so emphatically denounced at the meeting of February 11th the treatment I have received, and who made such strenuous efforts to have the resolution of January 30th declared "null and void." These ladies were Mrs. T. S——h, Mrs. B——k and Miss M——t. And, now, thanking you for your patient attention, I leave the case in your hands.

I left the meeting about half-past five o'clock, a few minutes after delivering the above address, and three days after (March 16th), I received the following note from the newly elected President, Miss M——t:

"MY DEAR MISS H——T,—

"After you left the meeting on Monday last, it was decided you are to have the Court of Enquiry you asked for. Will you, therefore, be good enough to send me the paper you read at the meeting on Monday? It is necessary to have it to further the investigation. And this I trust will wind up the unhappy affair. With kind regards, believe me, yours sincerely,
J. M——t."

In my reply (I have mislaid or lost the copy) I informed Miss M——t that the paper for which she asked was not then in my possession; that the words in my address, "plotting and wilful misrepresentation" referred to Miss B——y (the late President), and the words, "falsehood and treachery," to Mrs. M——n (the Secretary), and that I would lay the evidence in support of these charges before the Committee of Investigation when notified of the time and place. After awaiting that notification for a week, I addressed a note of enquiry to the President, and received the following letter the next day:—

"DEAR MISS H——T,—

"March 24th.

"According to my promise I brought before the meeting on Wednesday your request for a committee of enquiry

"into certain matters you complain of in connection with Miss B——y, the late President, and Mrs. M——n, the Society's Honorary (3) Secretary. The meeting was an executive one. There were nine ladies present, and all whom I asked to act on that Committee promptly declined to do so, stating as a reason that they did not consider it necessary, as every opportunity had been given you for re-election, and all privileges granted to you equally with other members of the Society. They, therefore, cannot see any just cause for complaint. They are, however, quite ready to admit that during the time you were Recording Secretary you gave perfect satisfaction, your duties having been efficiently performed, and they deeply regret that anything should have arisen to cause trouble between yourself and Miss B., who stated most emphatically to Mrs. L——g and other ladies that she had no personal feeling in the matter, having simply thought one secretary sufficient for the work and she had been assured by Mme. de K——r that you would accept the position only on condition of there being a salary attached, and she did not consider you would be eligible for the office. Those of the Committee who voted on that occasion did so in perfect good faith, and although Mrs. M——n was elected, she had no wish to remain in office, having only consented to do so at the urgent request of many members. I have now fulfilled my promise to you and write in the kindest spirit, sincerely trusting that this will meet with your full approval, and that you may feel that everything that *could* be, has been done to bring this unhappy affair to a peaceful conclusion. More I cannot do. With kind regards, believe me, yours truly, J. M——t.

"*More I cannot do!*" There Miss M—— made a sad mistake. As President, she could and ought to have placed *her veto* at once on the first attempt to set aside the resolution for the Committee of Investigation, passed on the 13th March, and had she thus done her duty at any date up to the present, these pages had never been written, for whatever had been the decision of that Committee, I had pledged myself to accept it. Any person of ordinary intelligence can see the attempt to make it appear that I was *making a complaint against the Committee* for reducing the number of secretaries! In doing so in the manner related, a wrong was decidedly done me, but I make no complaint against the Society on that account, inasmuch as it was *tricked into it*, at a small meeting, in a very dishonorable manner. Since that date it has been a matter of the utmost indifference to me whether one, a dozen, or no secretaries at all *were employed*, if, for the reasons given in my address, my claim to the post were first recognized. Though thus misrepresenting my object, the clique know perfectly well that what I desired was *official judgment on the action of the office bearers*, who formed and carried out the plot, and that, in demanding an investigation, I

(6) No appointment of an "Honorary" officer was ever made by the Committee.

was making no complaint against the Society, or even against those members who, in good faith, lent their aid to the plotters. Miss M., Mrs. H., Mrs. G. W. S., Mrs. H., Mrs. E. and others, who are opposed to the investigation, are personal friends of one or both of the accused parties, but, as I wrote one of these ladies nearly two months ago, "though no one can admire devoted friendship more than myself, the claims of truth and justice must be paramount with every Christian lady, and to these I fearlessly appeal." As the reader will perceive from the President's letter of March 24th, the appeal was made in vain. Few will wonder, I think, that my indignation was now fairly roused. My reply ran thus:—

To MISS M——T. (Copy)

March 27th.

President of the W. I. Society.

Montreal.

MY DEAR MISS M——T,

I find it difficult to express all the indignation I feel at the announcement made in your letter of the 24th inst. received on the following afternoon. You wrote me on the 16th inst. that "it was decided after I left the meeting on Monday (the 13th) that I was to have the court of enquiry I asked for" on that day. Several more elapsed, and I wrote, on the 23rd, reminding you that I am awaiting the notification of the time and place for laying the evidence (in support of the charges I had made against the late President, of plotting and wilful misrepresentation, with a view to deprive me of office; and against the present Secretary, of complicity in the same, through falsehood and treachery) before the Committee of Investigation. In reply, totally ignoring my note, its object, and your previous communication of the 16th inst. you inform me that at a subsequent meeting (may I ask what notice was given of this meeting, and whether every member of the Ex Com. received it? I knew nothing of it, nor did Mrs. L——g on Tuesday morning) of "nine members" (there were *ten* on the 13th) "*all whom you asked* to act on that Com. of Investigation, promptly declined to do so." How that circumstance could possibly affect the organization of the said Com. of five ladies (three having already signified their assent) I am at a loss understand, and I may add here that I believe Mrs. F——y and Mrs. T. S——h are quite ready to complete the number and therefore there need be no further anxiety on that score. You then go on to say that the ladies "*whom you asked*" gave as a reason for declining "that they did not consider it (a Com. of Investigation) *necessary*" !! (Very complimentary to the majority who passed the Resolution at the previous meeting!) And at the conclusion of your letter you express the hope that *this settlement (!) of the difficulty* "will meet with my full approval" (!!!) So far from it, I consider it an aggravation of the wrong already done me, and I now pledge you my word, that *rather than submit to it, I will place the whole matter from the begin-*

ning to the end, and including the correspondence, before the public, (though God is my witness how little I desire it!) fearlessly leaving the decision to that tribunal. I am quite convinced also that every lover of truth and justice in the Society, when made fully acquainted with all the facts of the case, will joint in the verdict of the public in favour of another gallant minority. Indeed, if all such upright members could have *attended the meetings regularly*, no such crisis as the present would ever have arisen, for the first false step of the late autocratic President, in pursuance of her scheme to deprive me of office, would have received such a check that she would have relinquished it then and there, (and the absurdity, as well as the insulting nature of the change, is shown by the fact that my work is now chiefly done by Mrs. M——'s deputy, Mrs. H——n!) But no, not a voice was raised in disapprobation of the insult to me and to the Committee, and I do not wonder that Miss. B——'s belief in her omnipotence increased and carried her on to the maturing of her plans for the *coup-de-main* of the 30th Jan. The defence she offers "that Mde. de K——r had assured her that I would accept the position only on condition of there being a salary attached" is almost too childish for notice, and made by one who has so persistently, from the day of that lady's departure, ignored has right to affect the action of the Society in any way, it assumes a very comical aspect. Mme. de K——r however, *knew perfectly well* that so long as I had the leisure, the Committee would be quite welcome to my services "*until such time as they could afford a salaried one*" (See Minutes, Sep. 8th 1881.) And lastly, as I was then, and had been since Nov. 12th, cheerfully giving my services without salary, would anybody else, in civilized society, have *acted* on such a theory, without first consulting me?(7) "*And she did not consider I was eligible for the office*"!!! The cool impertinence of this remark is quite consistent with the domineering, dictatorial and obstinate character of the lady who made it, and who presumed to dictate to the Committee in the selection of an office-bearer. Of Mrs. M——n's conduct it is needless to speak further at present. I can see no excuse for her falsehood and treachery in the fact that "four ladies" that day urged her to it. Who those four were, it would not be difficult to guess, and the fact that such measures were taken beforehand for the successful issue of the plot, affords a curious commentary on Mrs. H——e's assurance to me (and made in perfect sincerity, I believe,) that "no personal rudeness to me was ever intended by *any member of the Society*"! That Mrs. H——e herself and several others who supported Miss. B——y's scheme, did so "in good faith" I well believe. They were in ignorance of all the facts of the case, and her secret motives, but that circumstance can in no way affect my

7. Moreover, letters in my possession from Madame de K——r are very inconsistent with Miss B.'s statements. And I would also here remark that no "generous mind would wish to ignore the obligations of the Society to Madame de K., to whose indefatigable zeal and untiring energy it owes its origin in this city last September, and whose arduous labors were its chief support until her departure early in December.

charges against the two ladies in question. To return to the contents of your letter of Saturday. I believe it has been very generally conceded that I have been very rudely treated, even by the devoted friends of these ladies, who, smothering their sense of justice, are making such strenuous efforts to stifle enquiry into this matter. Now it really seems, from your letter, as if these ladies considered *that the announcement to me (on the 13th Feby.) of my eligibility for re-election absolutely conferred a favour (!) on me, and that the acknowledgement of a RIGHT is considered a reparation for a wrong!* A word or two more about the action of this last meeting, and with this letter all discussion of the matter with the Com. ceases on my part (I see it is a mere waste of time) and I withdraw from the Society. You say the meeting was one of "nine members." If Mrs. L——g, Mrs. B——k, and Mrs. S——h were present, most assuredly they, as well as yourself, would have opposed such lawlessness as the ignoring of the Resolution already passed on the subject at the previous meeting. The Secretary has no vote, and even if she had, could make no use of her privilege if present on this occasion, being one of the parties accused. This supposition, if correct, reduces the number of those at that meeting who may have voted in favour of a measure implying repudiation of the Resolution passed on the 13th inst. to *four*, and unless these four were all present when my proposition was made, *and heard my reasons for making it*, how could they, I ask in the name of common honesty, make such an unworthy attempt to set aside a decision already made? Moreover, till a Resolution be rescinded, it is in force, and that the Society will submit to such acts without due notice of such a proposition, I am unwilling to believe. Can it be wondered at that ladies' committees, in general, command so little respect? How can a cause prosper where such agencies are at work as those which sent such an untruthful report of the meeting of the 13th inst. to the "Gazette" Office? Momentary success may attend such proceedings, but a crooked policy is ever fatal to its authors in the end. If such wrong-doing be not promptly denounced, how can the interests of the poor immigrants by entrusted to a Committee where such principles are allowed to have sway, and where such attempts are made to withhold justice from one of its office-bearers? In my address of the 13th inst. I proved clearly enough how necessary it is that I should be vindicated and the slanderous statements lately set afloat regarding my intentions, motives and wishes render it still more necessary. I have waited two months for redress *within* the Committee Room. I have now another proposal to make to the two ladies in question, viz.: A settlement by the arbitration of Canon Baldwin and the Rev. Mr. Renaud (as we are all members of their congregation) the charges and evidence, with the decision of the Arbitrators, to be given in writing, and to be considered *final*. This would be equally satisfactory to me, and save the Committee all further trouble in the matter.⁽⁸⁾ If they (Miss. B. and Mrs. M.) decline it,

8 No notice was ever taken of this proposition.

I call upon you, as President, to cause the Resolution of the 15th inst. to be promptly and faithfully carried out. Do truth and innocence ever shrink from investigation? I know that were such charges brought against me, I would thank no one who sought to delay an investigation an hour! I ask no favour of any one in this matter, nor am I aware of having asked or received any "promise" whatever from you on this subject, I only ask for justice, and, God willing, I mean to have it, "*Fiat justitia ruat cælum*" Recommending also to all parties a careful study of the 16th and 17th verses of the first Chapter of Deuteronomy, and trusting for a reply on Wednesday morning. I remain, Yours truly,

C..E. H. *Late Recording Sec. of the W. I. Society.*

P. S.—I have not as yet said a word to Canon Baldwin or Mr. Renand, or indeed to any other gentleman on the subject of the investigation.

The President replied on the 29th that she "would submit my letter to the Executive Committee when it met, and would be guided entirely by their decision." And here again Miss M. mistook her duty, which was manifestly to *guide the Committee on points of law and order, and insist on their faithful observance.* A meeting was held April 1st, but no reply was vouchsafed me, and I sent to the meeting of the 10th another letter of the same tenor, adding: "I am fully convinced that a large majority (of the Committee), as well as the public (should the matter be brought before it), will heartily endorse my views. *My charge is against the two ladies whose complicity misled a small meeting on the 30th January* "into the passing of a resolution calculated to reflect unfavorably on me, as I proved very clearly in my address (March 13th). Were it not for that *complicity*, of course, my charge against Mrs. M. would be a personal matter with which the Committee would have no concern. I trust I may ever be preserved from the guilt of slandering anyone. If either of these ladies deem that I have wronged them, let them prove it before the Committee of Investigation, and whether the decision be for or against me, I am ready to abide by it. Can anything fairer be offered? It astonishes me that those who have so long endeavored to stifle enquiry, do not perceive that in so doing they are really injuring these ladies. Much as I have suffered mentally and physically since that act of January 30th (9). I have no *personal* ill-will toward them (Miss B. and Mrs. M.), and I could shake hands with them to-morrow, if they were willing to acknowledge their error. But my self-respect requires that official judgment be passed on their conduct. * * For the honor of the Society, do not permit any further violations of law, order and justice, and thereby force me to refer this question to a settlement by public opinion."

(9) I wrote to Miss M., February 4th: "*I declare to you that I am so heart-sick at the baseness and treachery around me, that I would give the little I have left in this world to anyone who could persuade me that I have a right to remove myself from it.*"

But it was all in vain. Mrs. T. S. and Mrs. F. were unable to attend these meetings; Mrs. G. L. could only attend one of them; Mrs. B——k's protest was unheeded and unchecked by the President, Resolutions (of the same nature as the extraordinary one announced to me by the President on the 24th,) to the effect that "the Committee had done no wrong to Miss H. at any time,"—that they considered "the matter a personal one, and therefore declined to act upon it,"—were carried by a small majority and forwarded to me on the 11th ult., by the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. H——n. The voting of this lady and of the Treasurer was, of course, *illegal*, but that was a trifle not worth considering! *Truthfully rendered* these Resolutions might have run thus—"Resolved "that as Miss H. could not fail to prove her charges against Miss B. "and Mrs. M. if brought before a Committee of Investigation, "and as we have had social relations with one or other of these "ladies for many years, and would not like to risk any interruption "to them, *an investigation must be prevented* at any cost, believing, "as we do, that Miss H. (a stranger whose feelings, therefore, we "are not bound to consider)—has no intention whatever of adopting the alternative she mentions." The last name among the five forwarded to me in favor of this act of virtual repudiation (April 10th) of the Resolution of March 13th, was that of Mrs. B——c, (this was my first intimation that she was a member of the Society!) who wrote to me on the 20th. "*I do not feel disposed "to mix myself in the matter, more especially as I was not on the "Executive Committee when the disagreement occurred."*!! In my reply I wrote, "I imagine most of the members will soon come to the "conclusion that a more agreeable pastime for leisure hours might "be found than in passing Resolutions which *remain a dead "Letter!*" An inspection of the Records would shew several more of the same class, and among some very original documents which I possess, is an official notification dated March 29th, informing me of the action taken, March 13th, at an "*informal*" meeting! The fact being that it was the *regular monthly meeting*—that I was present almost to the close, and that the President had, on the 16th, announced to me that the Resolution I desired was passed after I left!

ORIGIN OF MISS B'S ANIMUS.

A few days before Mme. de K's departure, early in Dec., at the earnest request of that lady, Mrs. B——k, and a few other members, Miss B. consented to act as President until a substitute could be found, but she was never *elected* to the office until Feb. 20th, when she had a majority of three votes. At the first meeting at which she presided (Dec. 5th,) she gave offence to the two ladies who had been most instrumental in placing her in the chair, and at the next, her remarks to the Corresponding Secretary were so offensive, that in the following week (Mr. M. having exclaimed in the presence of Mrs. B——k, "*What are the ladies of the Committee about, that they allow my wife to be insulted by Miss B. without de-*

manding an apology!" that lady (Mrs. B.) accompanied by Mrs. M. called on me at ten o'clock that night to invite me to a meeting for the above purpose. Though deeply regretting that such a course should be thought necessary, I, of course, expressed my acquiescence in the proposal. But the circumstance troubled me much. I thought it a great pity that a few angry words should give rise to a breach in the Committee which seemed to me inevitable if Miss B. were officially required to make an apology. I admired and liked both ladies personally, and after an almost sleepless night I hurried off to Miss B's in the hope of effecting a reconciliation between them before the arrangements for the proposed meeting should be completed. I said to Miss B. "my acquaintance with you is very slight (*how slight the sequel shewed!*) but I think that if you knew you had hurt any one's feelings you would not hesitate to express regret?" "Certainly not," she replied. I then explained Mrs. M's feelings and begged that Miss B. would offer a prompt apology, (though of course without any mention of the compulsory measures on foot,) Miss B. promised to call that morning—I hurried off with the intelligence to Mrs. M. Miss B. kept her word—the *amende* was made—and for a short time "all was quiet on the Potomac."

It so happened that during the first weeks of my Recordership, various Resolutions were passed in spite of Miss B's violent opposition, and one day (alluding to my reading at the meeting, as was my duty some minutes of this character) Mrs. M. remarked to me "*You will make an enemy of Miss. B. if you go on in that way; I saw her looking very cross at you when you were reading those minutes.*" To excite Miss B's ill-will was certainly far from my wish, but though I put myself, on several occasions, to much personal inconvenience to gratify her little whims, it never occurred to me to purchase her friendship by any sacrifice of principle, and however *unpalatable* my Records may have been, they were never once challenged while I was in office. That they were at least *truthful* is attested by the fact that they ever promptly received from *H. R. H.* the honor of her sign manual! I can easily imagine, however, that the *modus operandi* as I witnessed it on the 13th March, when Mrs. M's assistant-secretary wrote at Miss B's elbow to her dictation (while the Committee in meek silence awaited permission to resume their debates!) was far more agreeable to that potentate than my independent "Pencilings by the way" (as the business proceeded) as the Recording Secretary of the Committee! Hence, I believe the determination to remove such a very objectionable personage, and I am quite willing to admit the SKILL with which it was carried out.

When, in my address at the meeting, March 13th I remarked (with regard to the report that I considered I had a *legal* claim on the Society!) that "I could not imagine with whom such preposterous idea could have originated," Mrs. E.—t interrupted me, saying that *Mr. Dunlop had told her I had consulted him on that claim!* Happening to have Mr. F. Lyman's note in my pocket

I immediately produced and read it aloud. It referred exclusively to the questions I had asked, and these, without exception, *related solely to the Constitution in connection with elections!* (Mr. F. Lyman being absent when I called, his partner, Mr. D—— had kindly made a note of my enquiries, which Mr. L—— thus answered) Mrs. G. L.'s comment, when I finished reading this note was very expressive—"That is a *very different matter.*" This slander, I may state here, even reached New York, and I have reason to believe that some ladies here were positively *afraid to meet me lest they should be entangled in some way in this mythical law-suit!* Of course, I immediately addressed a note of enquiry to Mr. Dunlop, who replied as follows:—

March 14th 1882.

"DEAR MISS. H.

"I have just read your note, and most distinctly deny "that you ever consulted me respecting your claim on the Committee of the Women's Immigration Society for the post of Secretary and that I ever stated that you had done so. I may say that it is not my habit to mention the questions I may be consulted on to any one. The facts connected with the only interview I had with you are correctly stated in your letter of this date. I really know nothing of the organization of the Society, or even the names of the office-bearers of the Society. or of the aspirants for the office of Secretary.

Yours truly,

JOHN DUNLOP.

I saw Mr. D. afterwards at his office (April 5th) when to my astonishment he informed me that *he had never spoken to Mrs. E——t, and did not even know her by sight!* And now, to the silent verdict of the public, I leave that lady also.

I am well aware that the "Council of Three" which concocted that very veracious report in the "Gazette" (to which I have referred elsewhere) were averse to "working with me" and I consider the fact decidedly complimentary to my character. I have a propensity for calling black *black*, and white *white*, which such persons are apt to find extremely awkward and inconvenient at times. But in the firm resistance which I hope ever to make to that *soul-destroying policy*—"the end justifies the means"—I shall be sustained by every Christian worthy of the name. (10)

The cause of Female Immigration is one which I shall always gladly aid by any service in my power, and I earnestly recommend every member of the Committee to attend the meetings regularly henceforth, and insist on a prompt retracing of all false steps, for if a continuance of the present lawless system be permitted the days of the Society are numbered, and the cause is irretrievably lost in this city.

FINIS:

May 13th, 1882.

(10) One of this trio stated on the 10th Feb. in the presence of Miss M——t and myself, that rather than be interviewed by a newspaper reporter, she "*would tell a lie!*" and when both her auditors exclaimed, "*you don't mean that!*" she replied deliberately and emphatically,—"I do—I would tell a lie."

